

MARIST SM AUSTRALIA

*Australian Marist Fathers Mission Centre
Marist Fathers International Mission fund
Australian Marist Centre Overseas Aid fund*



MARIST MISSION NEWSLETTER - Winter, June 2011, Vol.62 No.2

Make a difference this financial year - share through a Marist Network: Poverty Alleviation, Spiritual & Social Development



Giving Hope

2010 - 2011

Solomon Is

Tonga

Samoa

Fiji

Kiribas

Vanuatu

PNG

Timor

Cook Is

Futuna

Bangladesh

Burma

Thailand

Cambodia

China

Philippines

Vietnam

Japan

Sri Lanka

Tanzania

Kenya

Cameroon

Zambia

Ethiopia

Bolivia

Peru

Venezuela

Brazil



Behind the smile... eyes tell the truth

Dear Friends,

Years ago, I tried to learn a new language. To encourage me, my patient teacher complimented me that I was blessed with a "smiling face". Yes, I knew exactly what he meant. The bigger my smile, the less I understood! That insight has helped me over the years more than the dialect. Smiles can be masks covering cries for help while juggling the need to preserve self-respect. On visits to MMC supported projects, I spot unguarded moments when the pain concealed behind smiling faces is impossible to hide. The eyes, windows of the heart, always tell a story. How gently and respectfully one must tread.



Isn't it ironic that often what we complain about are really our greatest blessings. What is worse than being too busy? Having nothing to do! What is more painful than having to give away things we treasure? Having nothing to give away! What is harder than being dragged out of bed to help someone in need? Being the one who is in bed and needs someone to help them! What is tougher than being brought to our knees by demands of those around us for time and energy? Being on our knees asking someone else for his or her time.

The great St Vincent de Paul, whose heart for the poor inspired so many, cautions us who share. He prayed that "The Poor might find it in their hearts to forgive us for their need for our charity". Most of us have a pretty good sense of what he meant. There is a certain humiliation in knowing that one needs to receive just as there is a certain pride in being able to give. People have a need to be both givers and receivers. No one is so rich they cannot receive. No one so poor they cannot give. I marvel at the sensitivity and solidarity with which missionaries and impoverished folk safe-guard human dignity and self-respect. A fine line, a delicate balance.

And so it goes on. St Vincent was spot on. We find it easier to give than to receive. Sharing your support rests on our solidarity as brothers and sisters in God's family. That is the rock-solid foundation of all we do in partnership with all those who share your goodness. We help one another one small step at a time when hope still seems so remote and pain is concealed behind smiling faces with those far-away looks.

God bless & sincere thanks for your ongoing support,

Fr Kevin Stewart SM

If eyes could speak

Photos: Tim Stewart
Maela Refugee Camp
with their permission



MMC, an Australian Marist outreach, addresses injustice and poverty in Asia/Pacific by raising awareness and resources within Australia shared through overseas Marist social-development networks alleviating poverty and working with children, youth and women, especially those confronting social, physical and mental challenges. MMC also supports the training of international Marists for Mission.

FR 'ALIKI LANGI SM - BRIDGING THE DIVIDE



Some Marists specialise. Others are general practitioners. Fr Aliki is both a general practitioner and a specialist bridging the gap between Christian and Moslem. This is his mission story.

His journey began with a step into the unknown in the 1970's. Arriving in Christchurch NZ as a schoolboy, he spoke little English. Priestly studies followed in Fiji. His first assignment was Tonga in 1984. Then, according to Fr Aliki, he was 'volunteered' by his Superiors in Rome for the Marist Mission, Mindanao, Philippines.



After language studies, Aliki headed for his new Parish among the gold-mines in Dewilwil, a maze of tunnels snaking below the earth, non-existent safety measures, with Uzzi machine guns the real law above the ground. Fr Aliki brought a special humanity to this Mission as he tended 100,000 parishioners, eking out their living among rough mercury-drenched hillside claims, hoping to strike it rich. Some died. Most remained poor.

His next challenge was a remote mountain parish in the Diocese of Bukidnon with few roads and no electricity. On foot, Aliki moved among the tribal minorities, plunged into the 20th century with little education. He personally planted rice to support this community and show the dignity of manual work.

The last decade has seen Fr Aliki in Moslem Cotabato. Here, in prisons, leprosarium, a hospital, street kids and the mixed Salimbao Parish community of Christians and Moslems, Fr Aliki found his gift for inter-faith dialog. Moslems even volunteered to help build a chapel in this dangerous area. His respect among Moslems was such that a Marist Old Boy Moslem Mayor-cum-warlord, issued an edict to protect his friend: "Kidnap or harm Fr Aliki and you will be dead by sundown!" Aliki used this "insurance" to complete an MA in peace studies!



His present assignment is Timanan Parish where one of his recent predecessors was kidnapped. Fr Aliki successfully uses community social development projects to bridge the divide between Christian and Moslem: farm-to-market roads, hydro-power and water systems, medical clinics open to all in need.



Christian & Moslem Golfers compete for the "Alik Cup" to raise funds for this project

Fr Aliki is repairing the priests' house/centre for his successor and needs a little help from us to complete the task before he ponders a new call to serve where the need is greater in the Lord's vineyard. His dedicated legacy has blazed the trail for a new generation of young Tongan and Oceanian Marist Missionaries.



We are 'Asylum Seekers and Refugees'. We are real. We are young. We suffer. We laugh and cry. We have names. We dream, we study, we long for peace, security and a chance in life. We could be your children or grand children Please pray for us. Please help us.





HOT TOPICS

In Australia, among the 'hot' topics in the public forum are

- ⇒ Solar energy/global warming/carbon tax/carbon trading
- ⇒ Refugees/boat people/asylum seekers.

Where ever one stands, these are now real concerns beyond our lucky shores.

IN AFRICA KEROSENE LAMPS & CANDLES OUT

Bishop Luluga (Nebbi Diocese, Uganda) requests assistance for a community of Martin de Porres Brothers, forced to flee fighting in Sudan (Refugees). Access to solar powered lamps: "Many Brothers must read their prayer books and prepare lesson plans with the dim light provided by candles and kerosene lamps resulting in smoke inhalation and eye strain".



With the use of solar energy, we shall eliminate the use of kerosene which is toxic and dangerous in homes and reduce deforestation which results from use of trees as fuel wood.

The village relies on fuel-based lighting systems - candles and kerosene lamps. Such systems reduce air quality, present fire hazards, provide low quality light and are financially costly. Some ask us why turn to Solar energy ?

AND SOLAR LIGHTING

Kerosene causes significant indoor pollution directly linked to respiratory infections. Safety is a factor. Overturned candles and kerosene lamps are responsible for damaging fires. Solar lighting presents no such danger to children in the home.



The Brothers outline other objectives. It is dark at 6pm. Solar will enable both the Brothers and rural school children read after dark. Safety is enhanced with outdoor security lights. Phones, computers can be recharged for internet access.

The Brothers know the importance of reducing potent green house emissions from burning kerosene and fuel based lighting sources and introducing their people to thinking about the importance of a more sustainable future.

The bottom line: These Religious Brothers need Aus \$3,000

ASYLUM SEEKERS - REFUGEES - BOAT PEOPLE

Labels disguising the fact that they are humane just like us

May help come from all sides to those fleeing conflict and to refugees from various countries who have been obliged to leave all that is dear to them; may people of good will open their hearts to welcome them, so that the pressing needs of so many brothers and sisters will be met with a concerted response in a spirit of solidarity; and may our words of comfort and appreciation reach all those who make such generous efforts and offer an exemplary witness in this regard.

Pope Benedict - May 2011

"GREEN POPE" CALLS FOR HUMAN ECOLOGY

Pope Benedict appeals for a global lifestyle which respects the environment, develops clean energy and protects humanity. "It is good to remember, that before all else the person comes first, that human ecology is an urgent imperative. Adopting a lifestyle that respects our environment and supports the research and use of clean energies that preserve the patrimony of creation and that are safe for human beings should be given political and economic priority".

"The Pope highlighted that a change in mentality is necessary to quickly arrive at a global lifestyle that respects the covenant between humanity and nature, without which the human family risks disappearing".



"Every government must commit to protecting nature, assisting it to carry out its essential role in the survival of humanity".

"The United Nations is the natural framework for this type of reflection, which should not be obscured by blindly partisan political or economic interests in order to give preference to solidarity over particular interests". - Pope Benedict, June, 2011





Behind the scenes... THANKS

It takes many hands to keep MMC afloat - sincere thanks to you all

TRUSTEES—AUSTRALIAN MARIST FATHERS PROVINCE

Australian Marist Leader & Trustees Chairman

Fr Paul Cooney SM, BA., Grad. Dip. Theol.

MMC TRUSTEES

Fr Robert Barber SM BEd MA Dip Ed

Bob was involved in Education within Australia for nine years followed by 20 years in Africa (Kenya/Camerouns) in training programs.

Fr Raymond Chapman SM MA PhD

Ray has filled senior leadership positions in Marist Schools in Australia and served as Secretary-General of the Marist Fathers International.

Fr Anthony Kennedy SM BTh Grad Dip Theol.

Tony is involved in pastoral leadership in Burnie, Tasmania.. Prior to this, he was Acting Director of Marist Training for Australasia..

Fr Kevin Bates SM BA MA MED

Kevin has been in adult, youth education and pastoral leadership for 37 years in various parts of Australia and presently in Hunters Hill.

AMCOA TRUSTEES

Fr Paul Cooney SM BA, Grad Dip Theology

Fr Kevin Stewart SM BA STB MA Grad Dip Ed DMin

ADMINISTRATION

Executive Director

Fr Kevin Stewart SM

Executive Assistant— project/finance administration

Jane R Cecilia

Accountant

Veronica Warton

Financial Advisors

John Pelletier, Carolyn Stewart, Shaun Clyne, Dave Roberts

Donor Services

Clarissa Cole / Annie R Cecilia

MMC Compliance Advisor

Richard Dynon

MMC Project Consultants

Mike Wheelahan, Geoff Henry, Ian Stuart, John Duggan

MMC Volunteers Coordinator

John Burton

MMC Hon. Auditors

Ian K. Milne, FCPA

M. Robert Gray, FCPA

Income Sources and Designated Expenditure

Audited financial details of AMCOA/MFIM are appended to the hard copy of this Report on public display at the MMC Office, 3 Mary St., Hunters Hill, NSW and AMCOA Report soon on our website www.maristmissions.com

**BOARDS OF TRUSTEES for MMC & AMCOA
ROLE OF TRUSTEES**

Trustees are responsible for the governance and Marist character of MMC and its strategic direction. AMCOA Trustees are directly responsible to beneficiaries for the transparent administration of AMCOA through policies that comply with the ACFID Code of Conduct. They also account to the fund donors in Australia through the MMC Annual Report and quarterly Newsletters.

END OF 2010-11 FINANCIAL YEAR

Donations to Australian Marist Centre Overseas Aid Fund (AMCOA) are TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

Your entire AMCOA donation (100%) goes to those in need, giving both a helping hand and especially hope.

Please date checks "June 30" for this financial year.

MMC ONLINE DONATIONS

The online donation facility on our website represents best practice in security and privacy of online donations.

For information:

email donations@maristmissions.com or go direct to www.maristmissions.com for online donations.

BEQUESTS

A GREAT WAY TO CONTINUE SOCIAL CONCERN FROM HEAVEN

Bequests are an important way to shape your legacy of social concern. Some prefer to designate a percentage eg., 1%, 2%, 5% etc or a fixed amount. Should you wish to make a bequest in a new will or add a codicil to your existing will, the wording is:

"The Director for the time-being of the Marist Mission Centre, a special work of the Trustees of the Marist Fathers for the Province of Australia, 3 Mary Street, Hunters Hill, NSW

The victory in Jesus of Life over Death.

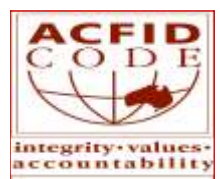
"I have come that you may have life".

Thank you for MASS OFFERINGS for your loved ones which support Missionary and Retired Priests who celebrate Mass daily for your special intentions.



MMC is a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development Code of Conduct.

The Code represents the active commitment of overseas aid agencies to conduct their activities with integrity, transparency and accountability. ACFID issues a certificate of compliance annually when Code standards and conditions are fulfilled.



YES



I would like to make a donation to
MARIST SM AUSTRALIA

Lord,
when did I see You
sick and not care for you ?
hungry and not feed you ?
naked and not clothe you ?
thirsty and not give you water ?
a stranger and not welcome you ?
- Jesus, Gospel of Matthew 25:35



My details are: (please print clearly)

Title: _____ First name _____

Preferred greeting e.g. Bill / Peggy _____

Family name _____

Address _____

Suburb/Town _____

State / Postcode _____

Phone __ (____) _____

Mobile _____

- Australian Marist Centre Overseas Aid (AMCOA)
(donations are tax-deductible)
- Marist Fathers International Mission (MFIM)
(non tax-deductible - Religious purposes)
- Please send me information on Estate Planning

My donation:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other _____

I enclose cheque money order cash

I would like to make a direct debit from my credit card:

Monthly Quarterly Half-yearly Once only

Visa Card Master Card

Card No. _____

Name on card _____

Expiry date _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Pls. Post: Marist Missions, Locked Bag 5002, Gladesville, NSW 1675
Or Fax to (02) 9816 1737 or donate on line



*With real compassion and caring
We all can create Hope.*

